

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181361

NESCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT SAN JOSE 3515 ACTION SECSTATE PARIS 19 JUL 1976

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3515

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW

REFS: (A) STATE 17775; (B) PARIS 20635

FROM AMBASSADOR

1. GREATLY APPRECIATE REFTELS WHICH HELPED TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE AND RELEVANT SUBSTANTIVE FOCUS TO MY JULY 18 PRIVATE LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH M'BOW.

2. M'BOW AGREED FULLY WITH MY PRESENTATION OF USG VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DIMINUTION OF FREE MULTI-DIRECTIONAL FLOW OF INFORMATION, BUT RATHER THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO EXPAND IT. HE CONCURRED THIS MOST EFFECTIVELY DONE BY ASSISTING LESSER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THROUGH TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND SHARING OF TECHNOLOGY TO EXPAND THEIR CAPABILITY TO  
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PARTICIPATE IN MORE BALANCED FLOW OF COMMUNICATION. HE WAS

PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED BY THE DECISION REPORTEDLY TAKEN AT RECENTLY-CONCLUDED STANFORD UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE FOR USG, THROUGH AID, TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO LESSER-DEVELOPED WORLD IN AREA OF COMMUNICATIONS. M'BOW FELT THAT INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (IAPA) AND OTHERS WHICH CLAIM INTEREST IN EXPANDING COMMUNICATION COULD LIKEWISE BEST SHOW THEIR GOOD FAITH BY ASSISTING LESSER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THEIR CAPABILITIES.

3. M'BOW WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF IAPA FOR WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS UNFAIR AND UNJUSTIFIED ATTACKS AGAINST UNESCO. HE ADMITTED THAT COMMISSION OF EXPERTS, SELECTED BY ONE OF HIS DEPUTIES, HAD PRODUCED DOCUMENT IN QUITO, WHICH TENDED TOWARDS GREATER GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND RESTRICTION OF FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. HE INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DID NOT REPRESENT UNESCO POSITION. HE ADDED THAT ON LEARNING OF NATURE OF "EXPERTS" DOCUMENT HE HAD ORDERED IT FILED AND REMOVED FROM ALL FURTHER CONSIDERATION. HE HAD THEN APPOINTED STAFF MEMBERS TO PREPARE DOCUMENT ALONG DIFFERENT LINES WHICH HE PERSONALLY EDITED ON TWO SEPARATE WEEKENDS AND WHICH THEN BECAME BASIC WORKING DOCUMENT FOR PRESENT COSTA RICA CONFERENCE. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IAPA SEEMED TO BE FLOGGING AND SCREAMING AT A DEAD HORSE AND MAKING UNFOUNDED ATTACKS FOR REASONS HE COULD NOT WELL UNDERSTAND. M'BOW SAID IN ANY EVENT, OUTCOME OF PRESENT CONFERENCE IS COMPLETELY UP TO PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS, NOT UNESCO, AND HE FELT CERTAIN THAT RESULTS WOULD BE POSITIVE.

4. M'BOW ADMITTED THAT SOVIET UNION HAD USED DECEMBER 1975 UNESCO GOVERNMENTAL MEETING TO RAM THROUGH SERIES OF HARMFUL AMENDMENTS, MANY OF WHICH, HE SAID, WERE DISPLEASING EVEN TO THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY LAY WITH U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS WHICH WITHDREW, LEAVING SOVIET UNION AND ITS EASTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES AS MAJOR FORCE ABLE TO INFLUENCE OUTCOME OF MEETING. M'BOW SAID RESULTS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AS BAD IF U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD REMAINED IN MEETING AND FOUGHT FOR PRINCIPLES IN WHICH WE BELIEVE.

5. WITH REGARD TO ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP, M'BOW SAID THE RECORD WOULD SHOW THAT REJECTION OF ISRAEL WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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CAUSED BY OPPOSITION OF WESTERN EUROPEANS AS EVIDENCED BY THEIR ABSTENTION ON ISRAEL'S APPLICATIONS, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF PROPER ISRAELI PREPARATION OF ITS CANDIDACY. HE EXPRESSED BELIEF THIS MATTER WOULD BE SOLVED AT 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE THROUGH AN UMBRELLA FORMULA UNDER WHICH IT WOULD BE RECOMMENDED THAT DECISIONS OF ALL REGIONAL GROUPS TO ACCEPT NEW MEMBERS BE APPROVED. HE HOPED THAT THIS COULD BE DONE WITHOUT SINGLING OUT ISRAEL AND WITHOUT DEBATE. M'BOW FELT THAT ENTRY

OF MOZAMBIQUE INTO AFRICAN REGIONAL GROUP, PLUS GRANADA AND, I BELIEVE, SURINAM INTO LATIN AMERICAN-CARIBBEAN GROUP WOULD PROVIDE A COVER FOR DEALING WITH ISRAEL'S ENTRY INTO EUROPEAN GROUP. HE EXPECTED THAT IN THIS WAY ISRAEL COULD BE ADMITTED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, PARTICULARLY IF U.S. AND USSR COULD AGREE ON THE MATTER IN ADVANCE.

6. M'BOW SAID HE HAS BEEN HAVING CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAEL ON THE TWO OTHER POINTS OF CONTENTION. AS A RESULT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, ISRAEL NOW APPEARS TO ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF HAVING HIM SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO INVESTIGATE THE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEM. MATTER APPEARS TO BE DEADLOCKED NOW MAINLY ON ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON PRACTICALLY DECIDING WHO HIS DESIGNEE SHOULD BE BY SETTING RATHER RIGID RESTRICTIONS ON WHO MIGHT BE SELECTED. HIS INTENTION IS TO APPOINT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EXPERT WHO REPUTATION WOULD BE AT STAKE. HE HOPES THAT THIS MATTER CAN BE RESOLVED SHORTLY SO THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL CAN BE RESUMED. WITH REGARD TO EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, DISCUSSIONS ARE ALSO UNDER WAY BUT LESS HEADWAY HAS BEEN MADE. HE HAS POINTED OUT TO ISRAELIS THAT IF THEY ARE IN FACT PROVIDING BALANCED INSTRUCTION THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN PERMITTING A UNESCO DELEGATION TO VISIT THE INSTITUTIONS. AS LONG AS THEY ARE UNWILLING TO PERMIT SUCH VISITS, DOUBT WILL NATURALLY REMAIN THAT ISRAEL IS DOING SOMETHING IT WISHES TO HIDE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. M'BOW FELT THE MOST HELPFUL ACTION THAT COULD BE TAKEN NOW WOULD BE FOR USG TO ENCOURAGE ISRAEL TO ACCEPT A UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE TO INSPECT THE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN JERUSALEM AND THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. HE INSISTED THAT UNESCO WAS APPROACHING THIS IN GOOD FAITH AND THAT THE MATTER COULD BE SOLVED EASILY IF THERE WERE EQUALLY GOOD FAITH ON PART OF ISRAELIS.

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7. I INFORMED M'BOW OF THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE OF STATE'S APPROPRIATION BILL INCLUDING THE APPROXIMATELY \$3.5 MILLION TO UNESCO. M'BOW DID NOT SEEM SURPRISED BY THE NEWS AND SAID THIS AMOUNT HAD BEEN INCLUDED AT THE INITIATIVE OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS UNDER URGING FROM AMERICAN INTELLECTUALS. HE SAID THIS PAYMENT WOULD PROBABLY ENTITLE U.S. TO VOTE AT 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, ALTHOUGH THERE IS A SMALL ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OWED FOR SOME TECHNICAL PURPOSE WHICH HE WILL TRY TO HAVE ARRANGED IN ORDER NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE RIGHT TO VOTE. HE SAID U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO IS AWARE OF THIS TECHNICAL POINT. AS DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATED, M'BOW WAS AMBIVALENT ABOUT OUR PLANNED PAYMENT. HE WONDERED IF THE U.S. CONGRESS HAD DECIDED THAT NO FUNDS COULD BE OBLIGATED OR EXPENDED ON BEHALF OF UNESCO UNTIL THE ISRAELI-RELATED RESOLUTIONS ARE RESCINDED, THEN HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE U.S. TO BE ABLE TO PAY THE \$3.5 MILLION; AND IF WE COULD PAY THAT AMOUNT, WHY COULD

WE NOT PAY THE TOTAL AMOUNT OWED, LACK OF WHICH IS SERIOUSLY CRIPPLING UNESCO'S OPERATION. M'BOW SAID IT WAS UNSEEMLY FOR A GREAT POWER LIKE THE U.S. TO RESORT TO SUCH TACTICS. HE CONTENDED FURTHER THAT THE AMOUNT OWED TO UNESCO RESULTS FROM AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT AND IS A REGULAR ASSESSMENT. THUS HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND HOW PAYMENT COULD BE WITHHELD AS PART OF AID LEGISLATION SINCE IT DID NOT REPRESENT AID. HE CHARGED THAT DEPARTMENT WAS NOT FORCEFUL IN PRESENTING THIS VIEWPOINT TO CONGRESS. M'BOW SAID THIS MINIMUM PAYMENT OBVIOUSLY WAS BEING MADE ONLY TO PERMIT USG TO VOTE AND DID NOT REFLECT ANY REGARD FOR FUNCTIONING OF UNESCO. SAID OUR IMMEDIATE AIM OF RETAINING VOTE PROBABLY WOULD BE ACHIEVED, BUT OUR MORAL POSITION STILL WOULD BE VERY WEAK. M'BOW HOPED WE WOULD REVIEW OUR POSITION TOWARDS UNESCO AND MATCH OUR ACTIONS TO OUR WORDS IF WE REALLY SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION AND WISH TO WORK FOR THE PURPOSES TO WHICH THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF IS DEDICATED. HE PLEDGED HIS OWN EFFORTS TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL AND INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN ALL COUNTRIES AND FOR FREE AND CONTINUALLY EXPANDING EXCHANGE AMONG THEM.

8. M'BOW HAD WARM WORDS OF PRAISE FOR U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNESCO, WILLIAM JONES, WHOSE EFFECTIVE WORK, HE SAID, HAS HELPED TO PROTECT U.S. POSITION AND INTERESTS DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. TODMAN UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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